

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, *et al.*,

Debtors.¹

PROMESA

Title III

No. 17 BK 3283-LTS

(Jointly Administered)

**This filing relates to the
Commonwealth.**

**REPLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO TO RESPONSE FILED BY
CLAIMANT ANIBAL ECHEVARRIA CORDOVES [ECF NO. 18138] TO THE THREE
HUNDRED EIGHTY-THIRD OMNIBUS OBJECTION (SUBSTANTIVE) TO
EMPLOYEE CLAIMS ASSERTING LIABILITIES OWED BY ENTITIES THAT ARE
NOT TITLE III DEBTORS**

To the Honorable United States District Court Judge Laura Taylor Swain:

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the “Commonwealth”), by and through the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (the “Oversight Board”), as the representative of the Commonwealth pursuant to section 315(b) of the *Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and*

¹ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor’s respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the “Commonwealth”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority (“PBA”, and together with the Commonwealth, COFINA, HTA, ERS, and PREPA, the “Debtors”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5523-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations).

Economic Stability Act (“PROMESA”),² files this reply (the “Reply”) to the untitled response [ECF No. 18138] (the “Response”) filed by Anibal Echevarria Cordoves (“Echevarria Cordoves”), and in support of the *Three Hundred Eighty-Third Omnibus Objection (Substantive) of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to Employee Claims Asserting Liabilities Owed By Entities That Are Not Title III Debtors* [ECF No. 17922] (the “Three Hundred Eighty-Third Omnibus Objection”), and in support of the Reply, respectfully states as follows:

1. On August 20, 2021, the Debtors filed the Three Hundred Eighty-Third Omnibus Objection seeking to disallow claims asserting liabilities associated with allegedly unpaid wages or other employment benefits purportedly owed by entities that are not Title III debtors, but which fail to comply with the applicable rules by not providing a basis for asserting a claim against the Commonwealth or any other Title III Debtor, each as listed on Exhibit A thereto.

2. Any party who disputed the Three Hundred Eighty-Third Omnibus Objection was required to file a response by 4:00 p.m. (Atlantic Standard Time) on September 20, 2021, in accordance with the Court-approved notices attached to the Three Hundred Eighty-Third Omnibus Objection as Exhibit C, which were served in English and Spanish on the individual creditors subject to the Three Hundred Eighty-Third Omnibus Objections, the U.S. Trustee, and the Master Service List (as defined in the *Fifteenth Amended Case Management Procedures* [ECF No. 17127-1]). *See Certificate of Service* [ECF No. 17989].

3. Echevarria Cordoves filed a proof of claim against the Commonwealth on June 29, 2018, and it was logged by Prime Clerk as Proof of Claim No. 63198 (the “Claim”). The Claim asserts liabilities associated with allegedly accrued but unpaid wages purportedly owed by the Puerto Rico Sugar Corporation (the “Sugar Corporation”).

² PROMESA is codified at 48 U.S.C. §§ 2101–2241.

4. On September 15, 2021, Echevarria Cordoves filed the Response. Therein, Echevarria Cordoves states that she “worked for the government for the 70s within the sugar corporation, and I was deducted retirement benefits that I never got.”³ Response at 1.

5. The Sugar Corporation, however, is not a Title III Debtor. Rather, the Sugar Corporation was a former government entity which has subsequently been privatized and, accordingly, is no longer in existence. Neither the Response nor the Claim provides a basis for asserting a claim against the Commonwealth or any other Title III Debtor in respect of allegedly accrued but unpaid wages purportedly owed by the Sugar Corporation.

6. Accordingly, because Echevarria Cordoves has not provided a basis for asserting the liabilities associated with the wage-related portion of the Echevarria Cordoves Claim against the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth respectfully requests the wage-related portion of the Claim be disallowed.

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³ Because a portion of the Claim asserted liabilities associated with Echevarria Cordoves’s pension, the pension-related portion of the Claim was transferred into Administrative Claims Reconciliation.

Dated: January 5, 2022
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hermann D. Bauer

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